

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

## REPORT OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Commerce:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

As required by section 19(3) of the Public Telecommunications Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-356), I transmit herewith the report of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 4, 2000.

## SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

## STATE DEPARTMENT HAS CERTIFIED CUBA AS CHILD-ABUSER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to refer to an article that was in Human Events on February 18 of this year entitled "State Department has Certified Cuba as a Child-abuser" country. And the article reads as follows, "the Clinton State Department's most recent annual human rights report describes Fidel Castro's Cuba as a vicious police state where children in particular are targeted for abuse by the government, but that, apparently, means nothing to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, an agency of Attorney General Janet Reno's Justice Department, which remains determined to deny even an initial political asylum hearing to a 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez, the Cuban boy who arrived in Florida on Thanksgiving Day clinging desperately to an inner tube.

An INS spokesman told Human Events last week that the agency will not alter its position because of information in the State Department report. The INS has determined, said spokesman Maria Cardona, that the true will of the boy's father is that he be returned. Is it impossible, she asked rhetorically, that a little boy could grow up in a loving family in Cuba?

President Castro exercises control over all aspects of Cuban life through the Communist Party and the state se-

curity apparatus says the State Department report published in February 1999. A new report is due out in a few weeks.

Castro says the report uses agents of the Ministry of the Interior to investigate and suppress all public dissent. The agents recruit informers throughout Cuban society to create a pervasive system of vigilance. Jailed dissidents face a prison system designed to terrorize. Prison guards and state security officials says the State Department also subjected activists to threats of physical violence, systematic psychological intimidation and with detention or imprisonment in cells with common and violent criminals, aggressive homosexuals or state security agents posing as prisoners.

The report also cites widespread tuberculosis, hepatitis, parasitic infections and malnutrition in Castro's prisons. Prison officials, it says, regularly confiscate food or medicine brought to political prisoners by their relatives.

Short of imprisonment, Cuban dissidents are frequently targeted for systematic harassment campaigns or acts of repudiation. Castro routinely conscripts children, get this, conscripts children to participate in these campaigns in which neighbors, fellow workers and members of state-controlled organizations are corralled in front of a target's house. Once in place, they are coached to yell obscenities, damage property, and even physically attack the target.

In 1998, for example, Castro targeted the family of a journalist whom he ordered arrested for allegedly insulting him. Communist Party leaders and government officials conscripted local workers and grade school students and high school students to rally in front of the family's home and shout obscenities at the occupants before plainclothes security agents bashed down the door and beat family members.

Cuban youths are also forced to provide labor to the state. The government employs forced labor, including that by children reports the State Department.

All students over age 11 are expected to devote 30 to 45 hours of their summer vacation to farm work, laboring up to 8 hours per day.

These are among the reasons that the U.S. Cuban Reconstruction Act has held that Cuban refugees reaching U.S. soil should presumptively be considered political refugees who face a "well-founded fear of persecution" back in Cuba.

Janet Reno has short-circuited this law by claiming that only Elian's father has the standing to apply for asylum on Elian's behalf in the United States. If the State Department is right, of course, for Elian's father to apply could lead, at a minimum, to an "act of repudiation" in front of his home.

If returned to Cuba as Janet Reno wishes, Elian also would have to repudiate his mother, who in her own elo-

quent act of repudiating Castro gave her life to bring her son to freedom.

These are things I think the American people ought to think about before they make judgment about whether or not this boy should be sent back to a Communist prison in Cuba.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORWOOD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

## TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SENATOR MAURINE NEUBERGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a former member of the other body who passed away in February, former Senator Maurine Neuberger. My interest in Senator Neuberger stems not only from her achievements as a legislator but also because we share a family connection, albeit somewhat distant. Senator Neuberger was my great uncle's sister-in-law.

Maurine Neuberger served one term in the U.S. Senate from 1961 to 1967, one of the most significant periods in our Nation's history. She was known as an outspoken advocate for consumers, candid and brutally honest in her views, and unafraid to take on even the most entrenched interests. The author of a 1961 Saturday Evening Post article described her as, quote, a woman of independent spirit who feels it is more important to be herself than to bow to the demands of conformity.

Maurine Neuberger was born in 1907 in Cloverdale, Oregon. The daughter of a doctor and dairy farmer, she became a teacher in the Portland school district. It was there that she met her husband and future political partner, Richard Neuberger. Dick Neuberger was already making a name for himself as a journalist and a legislator, and after serving in World War II as a captain, he ran for and was elected to the Oregon Senate. When the couple was returning from an East Coast trip a year later, Dick mentioned that the State House seat in their area was opening up and Maurine said, "I wish I'd known that. I would have run for it." Dick took the offhand comment very seriously and after a long conversation over a few hundred miles of road, the couple pulled over and they

called a friend back in Oregon who filed the necessary papers to make Maurine Neuberger a candidate for the Oregon legislature.

Maurine won that House seat, making the Neuberger the first husband and wife team in U.S. history to serve in the State legislature at the same time. They were both progressive liberals of the day, fighting for consumers, the environment, and civil rights. Maurine never stayed in her husband's shadow and even got more votes than him when they ran for reelection in 1952.

Maurine championed many causes as a State legislator but became known as the champion of the housewife for one cause in particular, overturning a ban on food coloring in margarine. This may sound like a frivolous cause to take up in these days, but to a woman in the 1950s, this was no silly battle. The Oregon dairy industry had lobbied for a ban on yellow food coloring in margarine. This required housewives to add the coloring themselves to improve the look of the whitish margarine for the dinner table. This was a hard and cumbersome task and virtually unknown to the all-male Oregon House. So in 1951, she walked into a crowded Agriculture Committee hearing room, donned an apron and proceeded to demonstrate the difficult process of adding a pellet of food coloring to a pound of margarine. The act made the statewide papers and the ban on food coloring was soon repealed.

When her husband, Dick Neuberger, was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1960, Maurine came to Washington not just as a spouse but as a political adviser and aide. She often attended hearings on her husband's behalf during absences and advised him on pending legislation. But even as a senatorial spouse Maurine could not hide from the limelight.

She created a mini-scandal in 1953 when she participated in a charity modeling show with other Senate wives, wearing a bathing suit. As it was described in the articles of the day, "the somewhat leggy picture" caused a stir back home in Oregon. Maurine found the incident amusing, brushing off criticism by saying, "Well, what do people think Senators' wives wear when they go swimming?"

Dick Neuberger's death in 1960 on the eve of the election's filing deadline came as a shock to both his wife and the State. Maurine was urged to run for the seat by columnists, State politicians, and even her husband's colleagues in the Senate. Minnesota Senator Hubert Humphrey, in an appeal for her to run for the seat, sent a telegram saying, "I cannot imagine the Senate of the United States without a Neuberger in it." She decided to put her grief aside and filed the necessary papers within hours of the deadline.

Maurine Neuberger easily beat the "caretaker" replacement who had been appointed by the governor to fill out the term of her husband and in Janu-

ary of 1961 she was sworn in as the third woman in U.S. history elected in her own right to serve in the United States Senate.

□ 1630

In an early interview as Senator-elect, she demonstrated her forward-thinking values, favoring medical coverage for senior citizens, Federal aid for more teachers and classroom construction, pollution controls for automobiles, and a strong civil rights bill.

In her 6 years as Senator, she fought for environmental protections, challenged the meat industry for adding water to hams, and took the bedding manufacturing industry to task for selling flammable blankets. But she will probably be best known for her early and outspoken opposition to the tobacco industry.

Mr. Speaker, 1963 was a time when the dangers of tobacco were just becoming clear. The industry, the Government and even the medical profession fought controls against its sale. Senator Neuberger fought these interests in every arena and even wrote a book on the topic, *Smoke Screen: Tobacco and the Public Welfare*. She said in the text, "I have undertaken to write this book because I believe that the moral and intellectual poverty that has characterized our approach to the smoking problem must no longer be shrouded in the press-agentry of the tobacco industry, nor the fancy of bureaucratic footwork of government agencies charged with the responsibilities of guarding our Nation's health."

She called for major legislation to combat what she considered a national health risk. Her program included an education program to convince children not to take up smoking, expanded research into making cigarettes safer, reform and curtailment of cigarette advertising, and warning labels on cigarette packages.

As an early advocate for a common sense approach to tobacco policy, she would persuasively lobby her smoking colleagues of the Senate, often describing in vivid detail the results of the latest medical study on the hazards of tobacco.

Maurine Neuberger decided not to run for reelection, dissuaded by the amount of money she said she would have to raise to win the seat, a lesson that even this Congress could well consider as we ask ourselves, how many other great Americans turn down the responsibility of public office because of the demands of our current campaign finance system.

After remarrying and leaving the Senate, citizen Maurine Neuberger went back to the classroom. She taught at Boston University and Radcliffe College. Then she became an opponent of the Vietnam War and supported Robert Kennedy in his 1968 presidential race.

Eventually, she moved back home to Portland, Oregon, but stayed active in public affairs, serving on presidential

commissions for Presidents Johnson and Carter. Friends say she remained interested in politics and lived an active life up until 2 months before her death at age 93. Senator RON WYDEN said he talked to former Senator Neuberger after he had cross-examined tobacco executives with tough questions before a congressional panel, and she told him, "Stay after them."

Maureen became well known in Portland circles, not just for her political acumen and her bridge-playing, but as an avid gardener. In fact, she became so well known for her green thumb that a rose was named after her, a miniature rose called the "Maureen Neuberger." The American Rose Society describes it as "red, a reliable bloomer."

The seeds that this reliable bloomer planted in Congress have taken many forms in the 34 years since she served here, in stronger civil rights laws, protections for consumers, and honest recognition about the dangers of smoking. I am honored to share a family connection to this remarkable woman and public servant, and I applaud the spirit that she brought to this Congress and to her life.

#### DECREASING OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, before 1995, the United States banned the export of oil produced on Alaska's North Slope, feeling we should supply our own national needs first. In 1995, Congress, with the full support of the current administration, voted to change the law and allow companies to export North Slope oil. At the time, I believed that lifting the ban was a bad mistake, that it would raise gasoline prices on the West Coast, and I said so on this floor. Now, with regular gasoline costing over \$2 per gallon in some places on the West Coast, I have unfortunately been proven correct.

Refineries on the West Coast depend on North Slope oil for much of their production. A single company, British Petroleum, controls an overwhelming share of the oil. In a recent complaint, the Federal Trade Commission alleges that British Petroleum manipulates oil prices on the West Coast by exporting to Asia at lower prices than it could get for the same product from West Coast refineries.

When the ban on North Slope oil exports was lifted, Americans were told that the action would benefit the oil industry and the American consumer. However, they did not say how it might help the American consumer. North Slope oil exports has only benefited one company, British Petroleum, and have contributed to the tremendous fuel price increases experienced by West Coast consumers.